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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECU Jarvis Lecturer to Discuss Bible, Politics, Homosexuality

GREENVILLE, N.C. (Feb. 20, 2013) — East Carolina University soon will welcome Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, who will give the Jarvis Lecture on Christianity and Culture in the 2012-13 Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series sponsored by the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. Levine will discuss “Strange Bedfellows: The Bible, American Politics, and Homosexuality,” at 7 p.m. March 5, in ECU’s Wright Auditorium.

Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and College of Arts and Science, and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Her research combines a probing historical-critical rigor and literary-critical sensitivity with the commitment to examining and eliminating anti-Jewish, sexist and homophobic theologies. She is a self-described “Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Christian divinity school in the buckle of the Bible belt.”

“This year's series – like every one before it – is distinguished by true luminaries in their fields,” said Dr. Alan R. White, dean of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. “Professor Levine's achievements as a scholar inspire the kind of critical thinking that is the hallmark of the liberated mind. Her wide-ranging intellect echoes that of Thomas Harriot for which our college and this lecture series are named.”

A dedicated professional, Levine serves actively on dozens of board of editors and advisory boards, and she is the author or co-author of more than 24 books. Levine has received grants and awards from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies. She has held offices in the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Biblical Association and the Association for Jewish Studies. In 2011, she became Affiliated Professor at the Wooff Institute: Centre for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations at Cambridge (UK). She earned her BA degree from Smith College, her MA and PhD degrees from Duke University, and is the recipient of many honorary doctorates.

The Jarvis Lecture is co-sponsored by the ECU Religious Studies Program and Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church, which provides generous financial support for this event. The ECU Religious Studies Program selects the lecturers, whose views do not necessarily reflect current United Methodist theology or the beliefs of Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church members.
Complimentary tickets for this lecture are available by calling the ECU Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS. Individuals requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the event.

Financial underwriting for the Voyages series is made possible by the Harriot College’s Dean’s Advancement Council, various university organizations, and many friends and supporters. To make a contribution, or for additional information, contact Dr. John A. Tucker, series director, at 252-328-1028, or via email at tuckerjo@ecu.edu. You may also wish to visit the series’ website at http://www.ecu.edu/voyages.

This year’s Voyages series will conclude on March 21 with the joint Thomas Harriot/Lawrence F. Brewster Lecture in History, featuring Dr. Daniel Richter.

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